

# PASADENA CITY COLLEGE MERCURY PCC EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 8

December 2008

## Perfumo Signs College Climate Commitment Pact

Expressing a desire to reduce the college's carbon footprint, President Paulette J. Perfumo signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment on Dec. 9 at a ceremony in Galloway Plaza.

By signing the commitment, Dr. Perfumo and PCC thereby recognize:

- the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects;
- the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely being caused by humans; and
- the need to reduce the global emission of greenhouse gases by 80 percent by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming;
- and to reestablish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.

PCC is the 606th institution of higher education to pledge its support of the commitment. All 50 states are represented among the signatories.

"Community colleges are places of lifelong learning and as we come together as a community of learners, what better place to learn together about this critical issue before us, and help create a brighter future for future generations," Dr. Perfumo said.

The commitment was set out because colleges and universities are considered ideal settings for developing workable new strategies, systems, behaviors and technologies that can be scaled up to the community and state levels. According to the commitment, "Higher Education is also a \$317 billion economic engine that employs millions of people and spends billions of dollars on fuel, energy, products, services and infrastructure."

By signing the commitment, PCC is committed to developing a comprehensive plan in pursuit of "climate neutrality." Within two years of signing, an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral must be developed. The institutional action plan will delineate a target date for compliance and set interim targets for goals and actions with mechanisms for tracking progress, and calls for expanded research on achieving climate



*PCC joined more than 600 colleges and universities whose presidents signed the President's Climate Commitment, as President Paulette J. Perfumo signed the pact in a ceremony on Dec. 9.*

neutrality. In addition, climate neutrality and sustainability are to be made part of the curriculum and educational experience for all students.

Following PCC's Green Summit Community Fair on Nov. 2, Dr. Perfumo has assembled a "Green Team" to further explore steps PCC can take to become sustainable. The commitment is founded on the belief that colleges and universities that take on leadership roles in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce long-term energy costs, attract superior students and faculty, initiate new sources of funding, and gain increased support of their alumni base and local communities. To this end, Dr. Perfumo linked the commitment to her "Vision 2020 Plan," a planning process that will incorporate the Pasadena community as well as PCC staff and students in town hall meetings to set PCC's course towards 2020. The theme of sustainability will be a major component of the process.

Dr. Perfumo plans to implement a multi-track approach, including "green-collar job" certifications and teaching sustainability across the PCC curriculum, as well as a "greener" approach to conducting PCC's business.

The commitment contends that "no other institution in society has the influence, the

critical mass and the diversity of skills needed to successfully reverse global warming.

Tomorrow's architects, engineers, attorneys, business leaders, scientists, urban planners, policy analysts, cultural and spiritual leaders, journalists, advocates, activists, and politicians—more than 17 million of them—are currently attending the more than 4,000 institutions of higher learning in the United States."

Dr. Perfumo said she intended to pursue state funding to develop a certification program for the "green-collar jobs," which will include careers within the fields of architecture, the sciences, and automotive technology.

Institutions that join the commitment are bound to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the critical, systemic challenges the world faces, which will enable the students to benefit from the opportunities that will arise as a result of the solutions they develop. PCC has already taken steps towards fulfilling the commitment; for instance, the new Center for the Arts is certified by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).



# PCC Participates In ShakeOut

In an effort to better prepare for a wide-scale emergency, the college hosted one of the most elaborate drills in the state as a participant in The Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Scenario on Nov. 13.

Sponsored primarily by the California Geological Survey, the ShakeOut involved Californians reacting to a simulated 7.8 magnitude earthquake lasting 90 seconds at 10 a.m.

Students, instructors, and staff were alerted to the start of the drill by Police and Safety Services patrol units' sirens, and used the "duck and cover" technique to ensure of their safety. Patrol units were stationed in the quad, Galloway Plaza, in front of the GM Building, and at the Community Education Center. The Emergency Operations Center was activated in the Police/Safety Conference Room within minutes of the earthquake. Most participants returned to their normal duties, but not occupants of the "U building."

Dave Douglass, Natural Sciences division dean, graciously volunteered the U Building to engage in a roleplay of what would happen in a real emergency. After the simulated earthquake, U building students, instructors, and staff were evacuated to the mirror pools area. Eight Police and Safety cadets remained in the

building, pretending to be injured. The cadet volunteers for the simulation underwent weeklong training. The playacting component included theatrical makeup.

"It looked pretty real," said Cadet Cpl. Jeffrey Paul Lazar of his makeup. Lazar's role was that of a man who had sustained massive head trauma. He faked going into a state of shock. The Campus Emergency Response Team rescued the victims, and a triage area was set up in Galloway Plaza to treat the faux-injured, who were taken out of the U Building on stretchers.

"They handled everything professionally," Lazar said of the attendants.

On the ground level of the U Building, a smoke machine from Staging Services simulated the intensity of a full-scale fire. One floor above, a hazing machine produced a smoky atmosphere akin to a toxic cloud of a chemical spill.

"We have resources here that the average high-rise, office building, or even government agency doesn't have," said Lt. Brad Young of Police and Safety Services. Young said that because PCC has its own police department, drill coordinators were able to pull off such a complex situation, to the benefit of the college community.



*The Campus Emergency Response Team searches the U building for victims in an earthquake simulation.*

## Employees' Efforts Rewarded

PCC President Paulette J. Perfumo has recognized two outstanding employees with the President's Above and Beyond Award. Dina Chase, director of the Degree, Transfer, and Outreach Center, and Yoshi Yamato, professor of Mathematics, were selected by the president as college employees who show superior effort in their job beyond their typical duties.

Chase was honored with this award for her supervisory work with the President's Student Ambassador Program. Since Spring 2007, 32 current students who graduated from local high schools have been chosen to serve as honorary representatives of Perfumo to familiarize feeder school students with educational opportunities and resources available at the college. As the manager of the program, Chase dealt with the ambassadors on a daily basis and worked with the target schools who received them.

"I am extremely proud and grateful for being a part of PCC," Chase said. "The award should have been from me to the

college, for allowing me to do something I truly believe in and enjoy tremendously.

Yamato was rewarded for her labors in coordinating "Welcome Day" on Aug. 29. It was Yamato's sixth year organizing the event.

"Returning students, staff, and administration all come together to welcome new students," Yamato said. "It's the little things we do for students to make them feel welcome that make a difference."

Campus tours, information booths, and I.D. card registrations are among the activities Yamato incorporated into the experience to help new students acquaint themselves with the campus.

Perfumo created the award last year to acknowledge an employee, Gary Potts, who worked on the Verizon telephone upgrade, splitting his shifts to work in the morning and night every day until he finished.

"In the future we plan to be able to give out an award to the two different areas of the school organization, faculty and staff," Perfumo said.

## Coca-Cola Recognizes Student For Helping Others

Student Diarlen Leon is among 400 recipients nationwide who have been recognized by the Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program for their commitment to academics and their communities and will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Since 2000, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has given more than \$400,000 annually to students attending two-year degree-granting institutions. Each year, 400 scholarship recipients are identified at the national meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges and designated as New Century Scholars.

"The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program is an extension of our long-standing commitment to college education throughout the United States," said J. Mark Davis, president of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "This scholarship honors students who often balance responsibilities of school, work and family, but also find time to give back to their communities through volunteer service."

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is one of the most recognized and respected corporate-sponsored scholarships in America.

"It's in incredible honor when you consider how many people the program has supported through college," said David Le Claire, assistant director of Scholarships and Financial Aid at PCC who worked alongside Leon and witnessed firsthand her work to help others pay for college. "She took it upon herself to help a number of students in the MESA program find scholarships and grants. She's very endearing and selfless. It just goes to show what happens when you help other people."

# Student Bridget McDonald Selected Tournament of Roses Princess

Bridget McDonald is optimistic.

"Everybody goes through ups and downs, but I keep my head high on my shoulders," said McDonald, an 18-year-old freshman and Rose Princess on the Tournament of Roses Royal Court.

A lifelong Pasadena resident, McDonald aspired to be a Rose Princess ever since she could remember.

"The Royal Court embodies all that Pasadena stands for," McDonald said. "You're an ambassador to the city."

But last year, as a senior at the Westridge School for Girls, she fell just short of making the semifinal cut. Westridge hadn't had a student on the Royal Court since 2000, when Sophia Bush was crowned Queen of the Tournament of Roses.

Queen and Court Committee Vice-Chair Mark Henzel and Amit Patel, an at-large member of the Tournament of Roses Executive Committee who served on last year's Queen and Court committee, ran into McDonald this summer. "He remembered Bridget distinctly," Henzel said of Patel. "He was adamant that she return for a tryout. I was almost moved by his intensity."

McDonald decided she had nothing to lose—and everything to gain—by trying again. "I knew what I was getting into and what to expect," she said. "I was more relaxed. I was more myself."

The committee looks for candidates who are "'a, b, c'—articulate, bright, and charming," said Tom Willis, Chairman of the Queen and Court Committee. McDonald scored high enough to make the top seven; more than 1,000 area residents applied. By the end of the process, Willis and the rest of the committee felt just as strongly as Patel had. "She is an outstanding young lady, and it is a pleasure to have her on the Royal Court," Willis said.

McDonald is following in the footsteps of the "One Tree Hill" actress in more ways than one: she will transfer from PCC to Bush's alma mater, the University of Southern California, in the fall. McDonald's eternal optimism is the reason the PCC environmental science major will join the Trojan Family.

Despite a solid grade-point average and various extracurricular activities, she was not initially accepted to the university. McDonald, whose parents both attended USC and whose late grandmother worked as a university librarian, was disappointed at first, but she appealed and gained acceptance for the following year.

"By keeping a positive mindset, and not letting negativity interfere, I can accomplish anything," she said.

McDonald said that USC encouraged her to attend a community college that would foster an easy transition to USC.

"PCC seemed like the perfect choice because it is close to home, is an excellent transfer school, and had a very strong history and articulation agreement with USC," she said. "I believe the teachers at PCC have an initial goal of wanting a majority of their students to transfer to a four-year university; thus, they try to prepare them as adequately as possible. I've had an excellent experience so far. My teachers are truly preparing us for the 'college-life', especially for those who plan to transfer out."

McDonald has been keeping herself busy as a PCC student, and hopes to get more involved next semester. "I was somewhat pre-occupied with the initial transition and get-go of school, and sooner than I knew it, I was selected to be on the Court, which is, in [and] of itself, rather time consuming," she said.

Indeed, representing Pasadena on the Royal Court is an intensive



*Freshman environmental science major Bridget McDonald beat hundreds of candidates for the Tournament of Roses Royal Court.*

task. The Royal Court attends between 100 and 150 engagements. "It gets to be a grind," Willis said. Handling pressure is an area in which McDonald excels. She has juggled her schoolwork, jobs, and extracurriculars for years; in fact, she calls her activities "a leisurely escape from the grind."

Known for her love of animals, she volunteers her time at the Pasadena Humane Society, fundraising and caring for animals. McDonald stays active by playing tennis, is an avid photographer and pianist, and, since the seventh grade, was a part of the National Charity League, raising money for philanthropies with her mother, Rosemary.

Indeed McDonald embodies the "a", "b", and "c"—and "o", optimism—that it takes to be a Princess.

"It is an honor that they saw that in me and trust that I can show my strengths as a role model," she said. "Had I not had optimism, I would not be in the position I'm in today."



*Happy Holidays!*

From the staff of the Public Relations and Publications Offices



## Banana Tree Sprouts In Sculpture Garden

The college's Boone Sculpture Garden is in full bloom with a new piece from Japanese sculptor Yutaka Sone. *Baby Banana Tree* represents the concept of the garden quite literally: the sculpture itself is a giant baby banana tree plant.

Sone's creation brings a sense of vibrancy and whimsy to the Sculpture Garden, and the idea flowered from his desire to infuse the Sculpture Garden with "strong energy."

Alexander Kritselis, dean of the Visual Arts and Media Studies division, said the goal of Sone's banana tree was to set off the sculpture garden.

"It lights up the other pieces," Kritselis said. "It makes you slow down to look. It raises your level of awareness."

Sone, an artist who has worked across various media, was commissioned by the college in 2006. He was recommended by Paul Schimmel, chief curator of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. Longtime PCC patron Adelaide Hixon financed the sculpture.

"Sculpture is a new reality for the world," Sone said. "It's a new existence."

Sone's banana plant, soaring 25 feet high, stands adjacent to Galloway Plaza.

*Baby Banana Tree* evoked the surrealism of Alice in Wonderland for PCC alumna Jazmin Delgado, 25, of Glendale. Her sister Norma Delgado, 23, took the young plant as a metaphor for what the college is all about.

"It's a metaphor for the learning process," said the third-year sociology major. We go through the learning process, just like how a plant grows through a process."

Third-year psychology student Seth Watkins offered a philosophical assessment: "It definitely catches the eye. That's what art is all about: art makes you think."

Making students and the PCC community think was the goal of the Sculpture Garden. "It reshapes the way we think about the world we live in," Kritselis said. "The moment you slow down, you begin an internal dialogue."

For six months, Sone worked with a team in

Guadalajara, Mexico, to sculpt the components of his design. Composed of a steel frame covered in fiberglass and polyester resin, the sculpture gets its bright hues from automotive paint. The durable industrial materials will help preserve the intensity of the color. *Baby Banana Tree* stood for two weeks at Guadalajara's city hall, then returned to Sone's workshop for changes—such as reconfiguring the leaves' tips—before he considered his piece ready for installation at PCC.

For two years, ideas germinated in the sculptor's head until he decided on *Baby Banana Tree*.

"The sculpture is representative of the younger students who come to campus with grand ideas. It reflects and projects their hopes, aspirations, and desires," Kritselis said of Sone's concept. "This is a place where young people come to explore and develop. We prepare them for their lives, for the future."



PASADENA CITY COLLEGE  
**MERCURY**  
PCC EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Pasadena City College  
Public Relations Office  
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91106-2003  
(626) 585-7315

**Director of Public Relations**  
Juan Gutierrez, x7264  
email: jfgutierrez@pasadena.edu

**Photography**  
Richshell Allen, Kenny Kimura  
x7732  
email: raallen@pasadena.edu

**Contributing Writer**  
Ashley Zeldin

**Publications Supervisor**  
Gilbert Rivera, x7492  
email: gmrivera@pasadena.edu

**Layout**  
Carissa Encarnacion

**Have a story idea or an event to publicize?**

Contact the Public Relations Office at Ext. 7315 or email Juan Gutierrez at jfgutierrez@pasadena.edu

**Attention Staff Members:**

Please contact the Mercury at the Publications Office at Ext. 7315 or 7492 if you have special accessibility needs for this newsletter.